



## Conservation Legislation Update 2005

By Jenn Ambrose,  
Idaho Soil Conservation Commission

Much to the benefit of natural resources conservation, a good deal of conservation-concentric legislation was written in 2004. Many of the proposed bills were passed, taking effect July 1, 2005. The most notable additions revolve around water – who has it, who gets to use it, and what it will cost.

One bill in particular, House Bill 392, signed by Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne on April 7, 2005, provides for additional funding and personnel for the implementation of Idaho's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The primary objective driving CREP in Idaho is the development and implementation of landuse and management BMPs designed to conserve water in the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer (ESPA). Specific

goals include a 200,000 acre-foot reduction in annual water demands, bringing water use in the ESPA into balance with the current water supply and water rights.

While other states (as many as 36 CREP programs are currently being executed nationwide) have already initiated much great conservation work through CREP, very few states have opted to utilize CREP as a tool to address water supply. Even without a clear roadmap to follow, one thing is for certain - Idaho's conservation partnership will have the opportunity to play a large role in the success of this new program.

For more information about Idaho's Conservation Enhancement Reserve Program, visit [scc.idaho.gov](http://scc.idaho.gov). See page 7 for a list of other new conservation-specific laws in Idaho.

### Inside this Issue:

Pend Oreille Lake*ASyst Project to Educate for Conservation.....	2
Districts In Depth — Minidoka SWCD Celebrates 50 Years of Service.....	3
Gooding Soil Survey Now Published and Available to the Public.....	3
From the Field—Lemhi Big Springs Creek Monitoring 2005 .....	4
July Calendar of Events.....	5
August Calendar of Events.....	6
Upcoming Workshops.....	7
Upcoming Project Reminders .....	8

# Pend Oreille Lake\*A\*Syst Project to Educate for Conservation

By Jamie Davis,  
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts

The Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is teaming up with the Tri-State Water Quality Council (Council) to launch a Lake\*A\*Syst project for Lake Pend Oreille. The project came about through Tri-State's Nearshore TMDL committee, which consists of representatives from the Bonner SWCD, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Tri-State Council, and other local, state, and federal entities. The committee recently completed the Pend Oreille Lake Nearshore Nutrient TMDL Implementation Plan and has begun implementing education and on-the-ground activities.

The Pend Oreille Lake Nearshore Nutrient TMDL Implementation Plan states, "Through education, informed watershed residents and lake users will be more conscious of how their activities affect the lake, and thus may be more willing to modify those activities to meet water quality goals that they understand". The



View of Lake Pend Oreille from Schweitzer Mountain Resort, June '05

committee wanted to address the educational subjects in an effective, coherent manner, which led us to Lake\*A\*Syst. The committee contacted Lance

Holloway with the Idaho Department of Agriculture (ISDA), who has implemented Lake\*A\*Syst projects on Priest Lake and Big Payette Lake. Lance educated the committee on the program and the committee concluded it was a good fit for their watershed education needs.

Lake\*A\*Syst is a voluntary program, patterned after Home\*A\*Syst and involves both education and implementation. Program materials include a series of fact sheets and corresponding self-assessment sheets. Recognizing that management decisions made around the home pose possible threats to the quality of water in lakes and incoming tributaries, Lake\*A\*Syst is designed to help landowners/landusers recognize these risks and develop a management plan consisting of voluntary best management practices (BMPs). Implementation of the Pend Oreille Lake\*A\*Syst project will span two years, involving material development, implementation, and evaluation.

Fact sheets and other materials will be developed specifically for Lake Pend Oreille using Priest Lake materials as a template. Fact sheet subjects will include Stormwater Runoff, Lawn and Garden Management, Ensuring a Safe Drinking Water Supply, Household Wastewater Treatment, Household Hazardous Waste & Petroleum Product Management, Landscape and New Construction Considerations, Access Roads and Driveway Runoff, Forest Lot and Riparian Area Management, Pasture and Riparian Management, and an Environmental Resource Directory. Materials for Lake Pend Oreille will be developed this year.

For more information on the Pend Oreille Lake\*A\*Syst project or the Lake\*A\*Syst program, contact Linda O'Hare, Bonner SWCD, at 208-263-5310 or [Linda.OHare@id.nacdnet.net](mailto:Linda.OHare@id.nacdnet.net) Lance Holloway is also available to answer questions at 208-332-8603 or via email at [Lance.Holloway@idahoag.us](mailto:Lance.Holloway@idahoag.us).

## Districts in Depth—Celebrating 50 Years of Service

Research Courtesy of Kathy Weaver,  
Idaho Soil Conservation Commission

Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District organized July 1, 1955, is celebrating 50 years of public service and effective conservation this month.

A special highlight in the Conservation Districts current conservation work is the A & B Irrigation Project. Minidoka SWCD received a special congressional appropriation designated for the sole purpose of closing injection wells. The Conservation District, along with their conservation partners, have worked on the A&B

project for three years and will close the final well in a special celebration on July 7, 2005.

Other conservation efforts include assistance with Farm Bill program work, especially EQIP. The Conservation District's current supervisors are Ron Holton, Chairman; Jim McCall, Vice-Chairman; Wilbur Caddy, Rodney Steward, and Carma Ball. Laurie McCall, the Administrative Assistant, supports and coordinates day-to-day operations.

## Gooding Area Soil Survey Now Published and Available

By Nan Reedy  
Gooding SWCD

Since the Dust Bowl of the 1930's, the federal government has supported a project to map all the soils in the entire United States. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 at the Bliss Power Plant Park, Gooding County joined the ranks with a completed soil survey.

In honor of the occasion, Jody Fagan, Natural Resources Conservation Service Public Affairs Officer, came from Boise to present a special edition of the survey to Chairman Kay Hults to thank the District for their support of this long scientific undertaking. Thousands of soil pits were dug (and refilled), throughout the watershed that includes all of Gooding County and parts of Blaine, Lincoln and Minidoka counties. The soils were typed and classified by sand, silt, loam, and clay. The soils were mapped, and then as technol-

ogy advanced, the data was computerized, the photos were digitized, parts of it were posted on the Internet and at long last, the soil survey has finally been printed. The Wood River Soil Survey is now available free of charge to the public at the USDA Service Center at 820 Main St. in Gooding.



Jody Fagan joins Judy and Mark Johnson as they enjoy the celebration in Gooding.

The Gooding Soil Conservation District also took this opportunity to honor Mark Johnson, the soil survey project leader, who worked out of

the Gooding office for many years. Mark was presented with a crystal plaque honoring his years of service. In recognition of his upcoming retirement (August 3<sup>rd</sup>), Mark received a leather day planner—so that he may easily keep track of fishing days and vacation days. Co-workers and friends from the Gooding Field Office were on hand to enjoy the picnic and bid their farewells. Chairman Hults reported that the buff colored binding of Mark's day planner was chosen for its close resemblance to Gooding County blow sand, a soil type Mark is extremely familiar with. Mark and his wife, Judy, live in Boise where he has been working as a Soil Scientist at the Meridian USDA Service Center.

For more information, contact Nan Reedy, Gooding SCD at 934-8481, extension 100.



# From the Field—Lemhi Big Springs Creek Monitoring 2005

By Katie Slavin,  
Idaho Soil Conservation Commission

Whenever a fish habitat or passage project is completed in cooperation with the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project (USBWP), a component of the project contract with the landowner includes a provision that requires monitoring of the completed practice. This monitoring assists the landowner and sponsoring agency in verifying that the project is still in place and functioning as intended. It also provides an opportunity to modify any component which may not be working as planned and allows the USBWP to improve the design and implementation of future projects.

On June 15, five staff members from the USBWP and two Idaho Soil Conservation Commission personnel conducted the annual monitoring survey of the "Lemhi Big Springs Creek" fencing project North of Leadore. With the permission of the land manager, Kurt Bird, the group had a successful day in the field.

The objectives for this fencing project are: 1) Enhancement of riparian area vegetation by utilizing the strategy of excluding livestock access to the stream; 2) Protection



Russell Knight, Jeff Maser, Justin Krajewski, and Allen Bradbury, Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project and Idaho Soil Conservation Commission, gather stream data on Lemhi Big Springs Creek.

and enhancement of existing fish spawning habitat; and, 3) Balancing resource use with resource protection on private land.

The expected results from this project include a narrowing of the stream channel width over the next 15 to 20 years. Sedge and rush communities are not expected to increase, since they are already abundant. However, some change in shrub riparian communities is expected with new willows pioneering locations along the streambank.

The monitoring at this site was very thorough, with flow measurements, stream pebble counts, vegetation survey, photo points, temperature, greenline survey, and channel depth and width measured at three locations.

This data will be compared to information gathered in previous years to determine what changes have occurred in the area which has been protected by the 16,000 feet of riparian fence originally constructed in 2002.



Russell Knight, Megan Tews, and Wendy Koons conduct stream transect on Lemhi Big Springs Creek near Leadore, Idaho.

# JULY 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>July is a busy month for workshops and other great partnership events! Be sure to check out the details of any workshop or other event that you may be interested in by contacting the "information" person noted.</p>					-1-	-2-
-3-	-4- Independence Day All Offices Closed	-5- All Districts' QuickBooks files due in Boise	-6- <b>Information:</b> Kathie Shea (208) 332-8647	-7- Minidoka SWCD Well Closing Ceremony	-8- <b>Information:</b> Laurie McCall (208) 436-4777	-9-
-10- <b>Information:</b> Jenn Ambrose (208) 332-8650	-11- Commission Meeting - Boise IASCD Board Meeting - Boise IDEA Meeting	-12-	-13- NRCS Technical Service Provider Listening Session	-14- Panhandle Lakes RC&D Council Meeting	-15- <b>Information:</b> Kathy Dingman 762-4939 x 114	-16-
-17- <b>Information:</b> Kent Foster (208) 338-5900	-18- <b>Information:</b> Debbie Tiede (208) 226-5603	-19- Division III IDEA workshop	-20- <b>Information:</b> Bob Bartholomew (208) 378-5703	-21- Clearwater RC&D / CEDA Meeting - Nez Perce	-22- <b>Information:</b> Sara Wernicke 882-4960 x102	-23- <b>Information:</b> Dee Carlson (208) 685-6985
-24-	-25-	-26-	-27- <b>Information:</b> (Workshops on 7-29 & 7-30) Sara Wernicke 882-4960 x102	-28- SWCS Workshop & Tour - Twin Falls	-29- Native Huckleberry Workshop	-30- Wholesale Nursery Workshop
-31-		<b>Information:</b> Vickie Lukehart (208) 549-4280				

# AUGUST 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	-1-	-2-	-3-	-4-	-5-	-6-
-7-	-8-	-9-	-10-	-11-	-12-	-13-
NACD Forest Resources Committee Meeting			Information: Bill Horvath (715) 341-4021			
-14-	-15-	-16-	-17-	-18-	-19-	-20-
		Information: Jody Hogan (208) 237-4628	Three Rivers RC & D Quarterly Business Meeting - Pocatello	Information: Jenn Ambrose (208) 332-8650	Western Idaho Fair - Boise	
-21-	-22-	-23-	-24-	-25-	-26-	-27-
Western Idaho Fair – Ag Pavilion “Conservation Corner” includes ISCC, NRCS, IASCD, and Ada SWCD Exhibits – Boise						
-28-	-29-	-30-	-31-	Don't forget! Any loan or grant application must be presented to local Conservation District Board Members for ranking and submitted to the Boise ISCC office no later than August 30 <sup>th</sup> for consideration at the September meeting.		
Last Day of WI Fair		Loan & Grant Applications Due in Boise	Information: Christy Mastin (208) 332-8653			

## Upcoming Workshops

### *How to Start and GROW a Wholesale Nursery Business*

Saturday, July 30, 2005

8 AM Registration

8:30 to 4:30 Workshop

Nez Perce Hotel/Circle V Inn

Nez Perce, Idaho

### *Managing Native Wild Stands of Huckleberries for Improved Production & Economic Opportunity*

FRIDAY, July 29, 8 AM  
Registration

8:30 to 4:30 Workshop

Elk River Community Center

Elk River, Idaho

## New Laws Affecting Natural Resources

Summary of Conservation-Specific Legislation – Ratified and Effective July 1, 2005: *Click on the link to visit Idaho Legislature and read the body of the new law.*

[H0033: SMOKE MANAGEMENT AND CROP RESIDUE DISPOSAL](#)

[H0145A: WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUPS](#)

[H0152: SNAKE RIVER RIGHTS AGREEMENT](#)

[H0153: WATER RENTAL - FLOW AUGMENTATION](#)

[H0154: MINIMUM STREAM FLOW](#)

[H0281A: SURFACE WATER - LAND USES](#)

[H0373A: WATER RIGHTS](#)

[H0392: APPROPRIATIONS](#)

[H0394: GROUND WATER DISTRICTS](#)

[H0399: WATER CONSUMPTION](#)

[HCR016: ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE](#)

[HCR025: NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES - STUDY](#)

[HCR028: MANAGED RECHARGE – EASTERN SNAKE RIVER PLAIN AQUIFER](#)

[HJM001: BEAR LAKE](#)

[S1034: PRIEST RIVER BASIN WATER PLAN](#)

[S1035: SOUTH FORK CLEARWATER RIVER BASIN - WATER PLAN](#)

[SJM105: SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT](#)

[SJM112: SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN](#)



2270 Old Penitentiary Road  
Boise, ID 83712

Phone: 208-332-8650  
Fax: 208-334-2386  
[scc.idaho.gov](http://scc.idaho.gov)

### **Idaho Soil Conservation Commission**

*Sustaining Grassroots  
Conservation Since 1939*

*Providing Support and Service to Idaho  
Soil Conservation Districts in the wise  
use and enhancement of soil, water, and  
related resources*

- **Assisting Idaho's 51 Soil Conservation Districts**
- **Restoring and protecting Idaho's natural resources**
- **Raising public awareness of conservation issues and solutions**
- **Supplying citizens and public officials with technical information which may improve natural resource management**
- **Contributing technical and financial assistance and to land-owners and land users in the**

## **Upcoming Project Reminders**

### **July 2005**

- Base funding (\$5,000) distributed to each SCD
- Distribution of first allocation of state matching funds to SCDs
- District annual financial records to auditor
- Review and evaluate previous year's work plan
- First allocation of WQPA Admin costs to Districts with WQPA projects

### **August 2005**

- Resolutions to Districts in respective Divisions and Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
- Prepare Annual Report/Resource Conservation Plan Accomplishments Report
- IASCD Conference Registration available online at <http://conference.iascd.state.id.us/>